

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MELANIE AH SOON

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate an outstanding educator from my State, Melanie Ah Soon from Sacred Hearts Academy, for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, is the highest recognition that a mathematics or science teacher may receive. Since the program's inception in 1983, more than 4,000 educators nationwide have been recognized for their contributions to mathematics and science education. As a former educator and principal, I know firsthand about the countless hours that go into creating curricula, and it makes me proud to see outstanding teachers receive recognition for their hard work.

The dedication of Melanie to her field and to the children of Hawaii is undeniable. I applaud her for receiving this outstanding recognition, and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING GEORGE ROGERS

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I wish to memorialize one of Alaska's greatest pioneers and statesmen, Mr. George W. Rogers. Born to immigrant parents in 1917, George Rogers died on October 3, 2010, in the Juneau home he designed. By his side were Jean, his wife of 68 years, their children, and several close friends.

Often described as a "Renaissance man," George devoted his adult life to the spirit of the Territory and State of Alaska. As an economist, politician, educator, author, architect and artist, his contributions shaped the state and he will always be part of Alaska's story.

Armed with a B.S. in economics from University of California at Berkeley, George began his long and historic Alaskan career in 1945. With the hope of feeding U.S. troops with less expense, the Office of Price Administration sent him up to negotiate reduced prices for raw fish. The job ended with the close of WWII, but George stayed on to advise several territorial governors, among them Ernest Gruening, who later would become one of Alaska's first U.S. Senators. It was Governor Gruening who encouraged George to attend Harvard for an MPA and a Ph.D.

Dr. Rogers saw in economics the effects of dynamic forces of change, largely those related political, bureaucratic, and technical conditions. To George, Alaska was the perfect petri dish to study his "real world" of economics, and to that study he devoted his life.

At Governor Gruening's request, George created a revenue system for the Territory of Alaska. Later, during

the fight for statehood, Territorial Governor B. Frank Heintzelman sent him as a consultant to the Alaska Constitutional Convention where he also served as the stand-in for the convention's secretary. He considered his greatest contribution to the convention his work on apportionment to ensure Alaska's rural people are fairly represented.

Of the convention he said:

We had been through a decade-long . . . worldwide depression. We had World War II, and so Republicans and Democrats both realized that we've got to put aside political differences and look at the construction of our government. And it was such a wonderful, uplifting experience to have the two competing parties sit together and work this out. . . . it's one of the high points of my whole life because it was a period of great hope.

George applied this experience of hope and optimism to the rest of his professional and personal life. Believing in the possible, he influenced the fair development and treatment of Alaska's fisheries, timber, and oil for the benefit of all. He was involved in circumpolar research, the development of the Alaska Permanent Fund, and he helped to establish the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska. The Institute observes its 50th anniversary this year, dedicating the celebration to Dr. Rogers.

Much of George's personal time was shared with the city of Juneau. Elected to the assembly both before and after statehood, he served on numerous committees and as a member of the Juneau Rotary Club. His architectural skills provided the design for the Zach Gordon Youth Center, a vibrant recreation facility dedicated exclusively to Juneau's youth.

George was a great enthusiast and supporter of the arts. He designed sets for local productions, created the art for program covers and posters, and acted and sang on the stage. His abilities and openness of heart encouraged others to greater heights. He was a lifetime member of the Juneau Symphony Foundation, a member of the Juneau Lyric Opera, and the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council.

A loving and caring husband and father, George and his wife Jean were a unit. With the addition of six adopted children, George redesigned and expanded their two-room, 1948 miner's cabin until it became a five-bedroom, two-bath home. The house burned in 2000, but the irrepressible George began designs for the new one the following day.

As we bid farewell to his physical presence, George's many contributions live in perpetuity. Whether through his advisory work, his scholarly work, or the seven books he wrote—some of which have been adapted as educational textbooks—he made a lasting difference.

George's friends not only realize the depth of his impact on Alaskan life, they will also always remember the

twinkle in his eye, his quick wit, his honesty, and his ability to best them at dominos.

George Rogers was a great man, a role model, an Alaskan, and he has left an enduring legacy.●

GRANADA HILLS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of Granada Hills Charter High School's Academic Decathlon team, which won the 2011 Academic Decathlon and its first national championship. Members of the national championship team include: Austin Kang, Harsimar Dhanoo, Elysia Eastty, Joon Lee, Shagun Goyal, Riki Higashida, Eugene Lee, Sindhura Seenii, and Celine Ta. The team is coached by Matt Arnold, Nick Weber, and Spencer Wolf.

Each year, hundreds of high schools throughout the Nation compete for the honor of becoming Academic Decathlon national champions. This year, Granada Hills Charter High School earned the distinction of winning its first national championship, as well as California's 9th consecutive national title and 18th overall championship.

Competing in an Academic Decathlon is a daunting task. Students spend many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their family and friends. The Academic Decathlon's intense 2-day national final competitions include testing at seven different events, speeches, essay writing, and interviewing exercises. As the Granada Hills community celebrates the hard work and achievement of the Granada Hills Decathlon team, I invite all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating California's Granada Hills Charter High School Academic Decathlon team on becoming the 2011 National Academic Decathlon Champions.●

MECCA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I welcome the students from the 6th grade class at Mecca Elementary School, who are visiting Washington, DC. I am particularly honored to have these students visit the U.S. Capitol because they know firsthand how important it is to speak up and be heard to make government officials aware of vital issues that affect their community.

Like all Americans, the residents of Mecca, CA, have the right to expect that the air they breathe is clean, and that the Federal and State government will enforce the Nation's environmental laws to protect them from dangerous pollution. Unfortunately, some residents in Mecca became sick from overpowering air pollution coming from a nearby waste recycling facility. The noxious odors posed a public health risk to the two schools located

near the site, Mecca Elementary School and Saul Martinez Elementary School.

I became involved because local citizens, including teachers and students at the two schools, spoke out about the public health threat in Mecca that needed to be addressed immediately. I am so pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency stepped up its efforts to clean up the air pollution in and around the community of Mecca.

I give special thanks to the residents of Mecca, including the students at Mecca Elementary School, for speaking up and telling the truth about the troubling conditions nearby. It is an example to all Americans that we have a stake in our communities and that by fighting for what is right, we can make our country a better, safer and healthier nation.●

HANKINSON, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. From July 1-4, the residents of Hankinson, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's founding.

The town of Hankinson was founded in 1886, and was named after COL Richard Henry Hankinson. At the time, Colonel Hankinson was promoting a townsite called Kelly a few miles to the south, but development shifted to the new site, which had just been reached by both the Great Northern Railroad and the Soo Line Railroad. Both of these railroads were trying to establish control in the area. The post office was established on December 6, 1886, with Colonel Hankinson as the postmaster, and the town was named in his honor.

Today, Hankinson is the home of Hankinson Renewable Energy, which is one of the largest ethanol facilities in the United States. The facility began operations in 2009 and produces approximately 110 million gallons of ethanol per year. Great facilities such as this one show the future of energy in the United States, and help ease our dependence on foreign oil.

The citizens of Hankinson are proud to mention the many reasons their community is so strong. The city offers genuine small town living with a public library, city park, the "Caboose" Museum, and the Jack L. Bopp Memorial Football Field. The Hankinson area is also known for excellent hunting and fishing.

In honor of the city's 125th anniversary, community leaders have organized a golf tournament, car and bike show, flea market, children's tractor pull, street dances, a parade, a fireworks display, and other celebratory events.

I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in congratulating Hankinson, ND and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Hankinson and all other historic small

towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Hankinson that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Hankinson has a proud past and a bright future.●

OAKES, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On June 10-12, the residents of Oakes will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Oakes is a vibrant community located in Dickey County. This Northern Pacific Railroad, NPRR, townsite was founded in 1886. The town was named for Thomas Fletcher Oakes, who was the NPRR president from 1888-1893. Its first mayor, Thomas Frank Marshall, later became a U.S. Representative. Oakes is also the hometown of former NFL player, Phil Hansen.

Citizens of Oakes are proud of their community and what it has to offer. They boast that their town is the hub of southeastern North Dakota, with an excellent school system, a well-established clinic, and a new hospital facility. While a strong agricultural community, Oakes also has a booming business sector. Its citizens are honored to call Oakes their home and know that it is a great place to live and raise a family.

The residents of Oakes have already begun celebrating their town's anniversary. They gathered for a family night the first day in January to kick off their 125th year. They have also planned numerous activities for the weekend of June 10-12 to continue the celebration, including a walk/run, an all-school reunion, a parade along Main Avenue, and two evenings of live music and street dances.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Oakes, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well in the future. By honoring Oakes and all other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Oakes that have helped shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Oakes has a proud past and a bright future.●

RUGBY, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On July 1-3, the residents of Rugby will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Rugby is a vibrant community in North Dakota that was founded in 1886.

This Great Northern Railroad station was platted as Rugby Junction, but since its founding has been simply called Rugby, for Rugby, Warwickshire, England.

Today, Rugby is home to almost 200 businesses in a variety of fields including craftsmanship, manufacturing, agriculture, retail, food services, and health care. Rugby is also part of the North Dakota Wind Power Project which consists of several wind turbines that produce clean, renewable energy. In addition, Rugby is recognized as the geographic center of North America.

In order to preserve the history of the city, Rugby has established museums including the Dale & Martha Hawk Museum and the Prairie Village Museum. Both of these museums are dedicated to the pioneering families and ancestors of the local community. Rugby is also home to a beautiful golf course, the Northern Lights Tower, the historic Pierce County Courthouse, and is near the scenic International Peace Gardens.

The citizens of Rugby are proud of all of their accomplishments over the past 125 years and have planned a celebration that will include, among other things, golf tournaments, a softball tournament, a 5K run/walk, local entertainment, a car show, a parade, and food and craft vendors.

I ask the U.S. Senate to join me in congratulating Rugby, ND, and its residents on the first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Rugby and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Rugby that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Rugby has a proud past and a bright future.●

TOWNER, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 125th anniversary. From July 1-4, the residents of Towner, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's founding.

Towner, the "Cattle Capital of North Dakota," was founded in 1886. The town was named after Colonel Oscar M. Towner, who was a Confederate veteran of the Civil War and played major roles in the development of Grand Forks and McHenry Counties. Towner established a post office on December 11, 1886.

Located in north central North Dakota, Towner is a vibrant community and the county seat of McHenry County. Today, Towner is home to many local businesses, such as Anderson Funeral Home, Farmers Union Elevator, Gunter Honey, Johnson Clinic, McIntee Law Firm, Towner Foods, Ranch House Restaurant, and Western State Bank.

In honor of the city's 125th anniversary, community leaders have organized a number of fun activities. There